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(C250) FIRST LEAD CIA-LETTER

WASHINGTON, JULY 29 (AP)-SEN. WAYNE MORSE, D-ORE., CALLED TODAY FOR THE RESIGNATION OF RICHARD M. HELMS AS DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, DESPITE HELMS' APOLOGY TO SEN. J. W. FULBRIGHT, D-ARK.

HELMS TOLD FULBRIGHT HE REGRETTED A LETTER PUBLISHED OVER HIS NAME IN THE ST. LOUIS GLOBE-DEMOCRAT, EXPRESSING PLEASURE AT AN EDITORIAL CRITICAL OF FULBRIGHT, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

AS HELMS WAS CALLED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE TODAY FOR QUESTIONING, MORSE SAID HE COULD BEST SERVE HIS COUNTRY BY RESIGNING.

"UNTIL HE DOES," MORSE SAID IN A STATEMENT, "THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CANNOT REST SECURE IN THE BELIEF THAT THE AGENCY IS LIVING UP TO ITS LEGAL MANDATE NOT TO OPERATE WITHIN THE UNITED STATES OR INFLUENCE OR PARTICIPATE IN AFFAIRS WITHIN THE UNITED STATES."

MORSE, A MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, SAID THAT HELMS "COULD HARDLY WAIT FOR CONFIRMATION BEFORE HE TWICE INCLUDED HIMSELF AND THE CIA IN DOMESTIC POLITICS AND THE BUSINESS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE."

THIS APPARENTLY WAS A REFERENCE TO HELMS' LETTER TO THE SENATE ETHICS COMMITTEE IN CONNECTION WITH ITS INVESTIGATION OF MISCONDUCT CHARGES AGAINST SEN. THOMAS J. DODD, D-CONN., ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT MENTION DODD.

HOWEVER, MORSE SAID THAT HELMS' LETTER TO THE GLOBE-DEMOCRAT ALONE WAS SUFFICIENT TO DISQUALIFY HIM FOR FURTHER USEFUL SERVICE AS THE CIA DIRECTOR.

MORSE SAID IT MUST BE ASSUMED THAT THE LETTER TO THE NEWSPAPER "IS ONLY A SMALL SEGMENT OF WHAT IS GOING ON THAT IS UNSIGNED OR UNREVEALED AS TO ITS CIA SOURCE."

AFTER DISCLOSURE, ETC. 3RD GRAF A7WX

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